UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/265/Add.1
27 September 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 26

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization (A/51/265), focusing on cooperation between the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), covers developments pertaining to cooperation between that Organization and other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies.

United Nations Development Programme

2. The collaboration between ECO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) covers important areas of cooperation as spelled out in the memorandum of understanding signed between the two organizations on 15 March 1995 at Islamabad. UNDP has provided ECO with the services of a consultant, who has prepared a study on the reorganizational aspects of ECO. This study was an important reference material for the eminent persons group meeting on enhancing the effectiveness of ECO.

3. UNDP, through the Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat, is currently preparing a study on the economies of ECO member States. The purpose of the study is to identify actual and potential product complementarities and the problems and constraints that have limited the exchange of trade, with a view to developing appropriate proposals. A brief outline of the study has been prepared. In October 1996, a UNDP mission is to undertake visits to ECO member States and the ECO secretariat is to gather information and data required for the study. The study is expected to be completed by the end of 1996.

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United Nations Children's Fund

4. Following the ECO Health Ministers Meeting at Tehran in January 1994 and the signing of a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the two organizations on 25 July 1994, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and ECO held four workshops: the first on iodine deficiency disorder, at Ashgabat in June 1994; the second and third on breastfeeding and on oral rehydration therapy, at Ankara in August 1994; and the fourth on immunization, at Tashkent in January 1995. Consultations with UNICEF are in progress to work out a programme of action for the future.

United Nations Population Fund

5. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and ECO signed a memorandum of understanding in October 1994. Three major events have been held jointly. The first event was a Conference on Women's Status and Health, convened at Tehran in August 1995. The second event, a Conference on Reproductive Health, was held at Islamabad in April 1996. The third event was a Conference on Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, held at Almaty in April 1996.

6. At the suggestion of ECO, UNFPA is now considering convening a joint conference on male involvement in reproductive health and family planning, in early 1997.

United Nations International Drug Control Programme

7. A memorandum of understanding on cooperation between ECO and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) was signed at Islamabad on 15 March 1995 on the occasion of the Third ECO Summit Meeting. UNDCP has prepared a project proposal covering its technical assistance to implement the ECO Plan on Drug Control. Consultations are being held between the two organizations to carry out joint activities in this important field, with the possible participation of other organizations such as the European Union.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

8. A memorandum of understanding on cooperation between ECO and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) was signed at Tehran on 25 January 1994. Possibilities for joint collaboration are being actively pursued.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

9. A memorandum of understanding on cooperation between ECO and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was signed on 16 November 1995. The Charter of the ECO Cultural Institute has recently been signed. ECO and UNESCO are considering a plan of joint activities.

Interregional cooperation

10. In keeping with the growing trend of greater interregional cooperation, ECO is participating actively in annual consultations among Asia's subregional organizations being coordinated by ESCAP. The executive heads of five regional organizations, namely, ECO, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the South Pacific Forum and ESCAP, meet annually, as far as feasible, to pursue interregional cooperation in such areas of common interest as trade and investment transport, communications, human resources development and energy.

11. After the first round of discussions, at Bangkok in February 1994, and the second round, at Jakarta in January 1995, the next session will be hosted by the ECO secretariat at Tehran during the first half of 1997. To highlight interregional cooperation, a background document entitled "Promotion of trade and investment cooperation between ASEAN and ECO - a case study", has been prepared by ESCAP as a main background document for discussion at the forthcoming meeting.